

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A welded joint of a tempered martensitic heat resisting steel, wherein the heat resisting steel having a tempered martensite structure ~~contains~~ consists of the following elements by weight %,

C: 0.03 to 0.15%,

Si: 0.01 to 0.9%,

Mn: 0.01 to 1.5%,

Cr: 8.0 to 13.0%,

Al: 0.0005 to 0.02%,

Mo+W/2: 0.1 to 2.0%,

V: 0.05 to 0.5%,

N: 0.06% or less,

Nb: 0.01 to 0.2%,

B: 0.003 to 0.03%, and

the residue is composed of Fe and inevitable impurities, and wherein a fine-grained heat affected zone of weldment of the heat resisting steel having a tempered martensite structure exhibits a creep strength of 90% or more of a creep strength of a base metal thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The welded joint of a tempered martensitic heat resisting steel according to Claim 6, wherein the heat resisting steel having a tempered martensite structure further contains~~ A welded joint of a tempered martensitic heat resisting steel, wherein the heat resisting steel having a tempered martensite structure consists of the following elements by weight %,

C: 0.03 to 0.15%,

Si: 0.01 to 0.9%,

Mn: 0.01 to 1.5%,

Cr: 8.0 to 13.0%,

Al: 0.0005 to 0.02%,

Mo+W/2: 0.1 to 2.0%,

V: 0.05 to 0.5%,

N: 0.06% or less,

Nb: 0.01 to 0.2%,

B: 0.003 to 0.03%,

one or more of Co in an amount of 0.1 to 5.0%, Ni in an amount of 0.5% or less and Cu in an amount of 1.7% or less, by weight, and

the residue is composed of Fe and inevitable impurities, and wherein a fine-grained heat affected zone of weldment of the heat resisting steel having a tempered martensite structure exhibits a creep strength of 90% or more of a creep strength of a base metal thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The welded joint of a tempered martensitic heat resisting steel according to Claim 7, wherein the heat resisting steel having a tempered martensite structure furthermore contains~~ A welded joint of a tempered martensitic heat resisting steel, wherein the heat resisting steel having a tempered martensite structure consists of the following elements by weight %,

C: 0.03 to 0.15%,

Si: 0.01 to 0.9%,

Mn: 0.01 to 1.5%,

Cr: 8.0 to 13.0%,

Al: 0.0005 to 0.02%,

Mo+W/2: 0.1 to 2.0%,

V: 0.05 to 0.5%,

N: 0.06% or less,

Nb: 0.01 to 0.2%,

B: 0.003 to 0.03%,

one or more of P in an amount of 0.03% or less, S in an amount of 0.01% or less, O in an amount of 0.02% or less, Mg in an amount of 0.01% or less, Ca in an amount of 0.01% or less and Y and rare earth elements in a total amount of 0.01% or less, by weight, and

the residue is composed of Fe and inevitable impurities, and wherein a fine-grained heat affected zone of weldment of the heat resisting steel having a tempered martensite structure exhibits a creep strength of 90% or more of a creep strength of a base metal thereof.

9-11. (Cancelled)